



# Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General  
23 May 2022

Original: English

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## Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management

### Twelfth session

New York, 3–5 August 2022

Item 8 of the provisional agenda\*

### Global geodetic reference frame

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### Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat has the honour to bring to the attention of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management the report prepared by the Subcommittee on Geodesy, which will be available in the language of submission only from the relevant web page of the Committee of Experts (<https://ggim.un.org/meetings/GGIM-committee/12th-session/>). The Committee is invited to take note of the report and to express its views on the progress made by the Subcommittee in its efforts to address complex issues facing the global geodetic community, and to achieve the long-term sustainability and quality of the global geodetic reference frame.

### Summary of the report

At its eleventh session, held virtually on 23, 24 and 27 August 2021, the Committee of Experts adopted decision 11/104, in which it welcomed the progress made during the intersessional period, including the Subcommittee's considerable efforts to address the many complex issues related to the global geodetic reference frame. The Committee noted with appreciation the Subcommittee's focus on broad global consultation and the subsequent finalization with Member States and relevant geodetic stakeholders of the position paper on sustaining the global geodetic reference frame and the concept paper on establishing a global geodetic centre of excellence. The Committee adopted the two papers as key guidance documents to ensure the sustainability and enhancement of the global geodetic reference frame.

The Committee of Experts also welcomed the discussion on the proposed work package items described in the position paper to address the critical issues facing the global geodetic reference frame. The Committee further welcomed the progress made by the Government of Germany and the United Nations to host and establish a global geodetic centre of excellence at the United Nations campus in Bonn, Germany, and encouraged the future global geodetic centre of excellence to collaborate and

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\* [E/C.20/2022/1](https://www.un.org/Depts/under20/).



coordinate closely with the Subcommittee to foster greater planning and international coordination in pursuit of strengthening partnerships and opportunities enabled by geodesy. Last, the Committee noted the Subcommittee's desire to review its working modalities, including its terms of reference and structure.

In the report, the Subcommittee provides information on its activities, including its efforts to continue to implement General Assembly resolution 69/266 on a global geodetic reference frame for sustainable development. It also reports on its consideration of and progress made in reviewing its working modalities, terms of reference and structure so as to align them with the future working arrangements outlined in the position paper on sustaining the global geodetic reference frame and the concept paper on establishing a global geodetic centre of excellence, adopted by the Committee of Experts. The aim is to ensure an efficient and relevant Subcommittee with active participation from developing countries in the Subcommittee and its working groups.

The report also contains information on the progress and achievements made by the working groups of the Subcommittee during the intersessional period. Planned activities and related considerations will also be reported. The Subcommittee also provides a summary of initial discussions and considerations regarding the proposed work package items described in the position paper to address the critical issues facing the global geodetic reference frame. In this regard, the Subcommittee is expected to review its modalities on its working groups.

In furtherance of the progress made by the Government of Germany and the United Nations to establish a global geodetic centre of excellence at the United Nations campus in Bonn, the Subcommittee affirms the necessity of working collectively with relevant geodetic stakeholders to foster greater planning and international coordination in pursuit of strengthening partnerships and opportunities enabled by geodesy, as well as to collaborate and coordinate closely, including with the centre of excellence, in order to implement General Assembly resolution 69/266.

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